

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JANUARY 12 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT U.S.,
USSR, AND 13 OTHER NATIONS, EAST AND WEST, THAT SUPPLY
WORLD'S NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS MADE PUBLIC
JAN. 11 SET OF AGREED RULES DESIGNED TO BLOCK SPREAD OF
ATOMIC WEAPONS. OBERDORFER SAID NUCLEAR SUPPLIER NATIONS,
WHICH NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENTS IN SERIES OF SEMI-SECRET
MEETINGS IN LONDON, SIMULTANEOUSLY SUBMITTED THEIR JOINT
SALES GUIDELINES TO IAEA IN VIENNA. OBERDORFER SAID
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NEXT THING TO IT, SINCE EACH OF 15 COUNTRIES UNDERTAKES TO
ABIDE BY THIS SET OF RULES IN SELLING ATOMIC SUPPLIES, AND
UNANIMOUS CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY CHANGES." HE POINTED
OUT AGREED GUIDELINES ARE FIRST PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED
PRODUCT OF "SUPPLIERS CLUB" MEETINGS, WHICH BEGAN IN
APRIL 1975, IN WAKE OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN SPURRED BY
INDIA'S ATOMIC EXPLOSION OF YEAR BEFORE. MEETINGS, OBER-

DORFER SAID, INITIALLY WERE HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BECAUSE FRANCE--A KEY SUPPLIER NATION--"THREATENED TO WALK OUT IF DISCUSSIONS BECAME KNOWN." POST WRITER SAID INTERNATIONAL

RULES FOR ATOMIC SALES PUBLISHED YESTERDAY "ARE LESS STRINGENT IN SOME RESPECTS THAN RULES FORMULATED INDIVIDUALLY BY SEVERAL OF IMPORTANT NATIONS INVOLVED, INCLUDING THOSE FOR U.S. NOW PENDING IN LATE STAGES OF CONSIDERATION ON CAPITOL HILL." OBERDORFER QUOTED JOSEPH S. NYE, STATE DEPARTMENT'S NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION EXPERT, AS SAYING PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES BY NATIONS INVOLVED REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT STEP, AND THAT MOVES TOWARD AGREEMENT ON MORE STRINGENT RULES ARE ANTICIPATED LATER THIS YEAR. OBERDORFER SAID GROUND RULES COVER TRANSFER OF ALL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, PLANT AND MATERIAL COVERED IN 7-PAGE "TRIGGER LIST", ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, WHICH INCLUDES REACTORS, ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING PLANTS, ENRICHED URANIUM AND OTHER SENSITIVE NUCLEAR MATERIAL. NYE, ACCORDING TO OBERDORFER, SAID ONLY 5 "NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS" NATIONS NOW HAVE FACILITIES THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION--INDIA, ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, EGYPT, AND ARGENTINA. EGYPT AND ARGENTINA ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, HE SAID. NYE CALLED PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES BY SUPPLIER NATIONS "MOVE FORWARD TOWARD FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS." RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED NYE AS SAYING AGREEMENT REPRESENTED COMMITMENT BY NUCLEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPLIERS TO MEET WORLD ENERGY REQUIREMENTS WHILE AVOIDING SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NYE SAID BY MAKING AGREEMENT PUBLIC SUPPLIER GROUP DEMONSTRATED TO THIRD WORLD THAT IT WAS NOT SECRET CARTEL ATTEMPTING TO RAISE PRICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS. BURT POINTED OUT SOME OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED AN AGREEMENT THAT TOOK MORE RESTRICTIVE APPROACH TO EXPORTS. IN PARTICULAR, SOME SAY THAT IN FAILING TO CANCEL WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH REPROCESSING DEALS WITH BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN, SUPPLIERS GROUP FAILED IN ITS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE, BURT REPORTED. IN DEFENSE OF CODE, BURT ADDED, NYE SAID AGREEMENT COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO BAN ARRANGEMENTS THAT WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY WHEN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO CODE BEGAN. BURT REPORTED THAT "ANOTHER GAP IN CODE IS SAID TO BE ITS FAILURE TO INSIST THAT FUTURE TRANSACTIONS INCLUDE 'FULL SCOPE' SAFEGUARDS AND THAT CUSTOMER COUNTRIES MUST ALLOW ALL THEIR NUCLEAR FACILITIES TO BE INSPECTED BY INTERNATIONAL TEAMS BEFORE THEY CAN ORDER NEW EQUIPMENT...UNDER TERMS OF LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE CONGRESS, U.S. WILL BE OBLIGED TO CUT OFF SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND TECHNOLOGY TO COUNTRIES THAT REFUSE TO ACCEPT FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AFTER 18 MONTHS."

2. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED FROM ISLAMABAD THAT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN DEMANDED THAT FRANCE CARRY OUT ITS AGREEMENT TO SELL NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT "AS IT PRESENTLY STANDS WITHOUT ANY MODIFICATIONS." FRENCH GOVERNMENT SAID MONDAY THAT IT HAD ASKED PAKISTAN TO AGREE TO ACCEPT

REPROCESSING PLANT THAT WOULD NOT PRODUCE WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM. PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID "ALL INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT MISUSE OF PLUTONIUM AS PRESCRIBED BY IAEA HAVE BEEN WRITTEN INTO (EXISTING) AGREEMENT."

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID FRANCE HAS "SECRETLY DECIDED TO PUSH UNCLASSIFIED

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AHEAD WITH SALE OF CONTROVERSIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO IRAQ. DEAL COULD RESULT IN NUCLEAR ARSENAL FOR IRAQ WITHIN FEW YEARS." ANDERSON SAID "THIS DISTURBING REPORT HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OF HIGHEST RELIABILITY." HE SAID "OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT FRENCH URANIUM DESTINED FOR IRAQ WILL BE HIGHLY ENRICHED. THEY POINT OUT ALSO THAT UNPREDICTABLE IRAQIS COULD EASILY RENEGE ON THEIR NON-PROLIFERATION COMMITMENT." ANDERSON SAID "THERE IS SLIGHT CHANCE" THAT SOME OF ENRICHED URANIUM SOLD TO IRAQIS MIGHT COME FROM U.S., SINCE U.S. SHIPS, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, ;SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS" OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO FRANCE. "BUT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TOLD US THERE ARE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT SALE OF U.S. URANIUM TO THIRD NATIONS," ANDERSON SAID.

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK SAID PRESIDENT CARTER WAS WARNED BY LEADERS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND PERSIAN GULF THAT U.S. MUST APPLY "COUNTERVAILING PRESSURE" TO DEEPENING SOVIET INTRUSION IN ETHIOPIA OR RISK SIGNALING THAT ANTI-COMMUNIST WORLD IN END MAY LOSE BY DEFAULT. EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "CARTER WAS URGED BOTH IN EUROPE AND IN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO PUT STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS IN MOTHBALLS INDEFINITELY TO COMPEL MOSCOW TO HALT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA." IF SOVIETS STONEWALLED PLANNED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM ETHIOPIA "AS HABIB WAS STONEWALLED IN MOSCOW LAST MONTH, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD COME UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. ALLIES IN EUROPE TO USE SALT TWO AS LEVER AGAINST MOSCOW." COLUMNISTS SAID THERE IS NOT "ANY SLIGHT INDICATION THAT CARTER WOULD ENDANGER HIS OFT-REPEATED PLEDGE FOR SALT TWO AGREEMENT BY EMPLOYING ARMS TALKS AS POLITICAL LEVER." CHRISTOPHER UNCLASSIFIED

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